

Remarks

Rejections made under 35 USC § 102 are respectfully required for reconsideration.
All claims presently remain unchanged in the present application.

To Claim Objections:

Applicant acknowledges the objections made under 37 CFR 1.75(c) on claims 5, 6, 10, 11, and 12. Amendments on claims 5, 6, 10, 11, and 12 were not made because the outcome of the discussion of claim rejections under 35 USC § 102 may influence these amendments.

To Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112:

Applicant acknowledges the rejections made under 35 USC § 112 for claims 4, 10, and 13. Amendments on claims 4, 10, and 13 were not made because the outcome of the discussion of claim rejections under 35 USC § 102 may influence these amendments.

To Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102:

In US Patent No. 4528709 referred to as "Getz" cited by Applicant as prior art on which claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) are based is claimed:

1. An automatic washing machine having a tub to receive a load of clothes to be washed including an automatic liquid temperature control system comprising:
means for selecting a desired final temperature of the wash liquid in said tub,
means for selecting a desired final liquid level in said tub,
first valve means for admitting a first liquid in said tub,
second valve means for independently admitting a second liquid into said tub,
means for measuring the temperature of each liquid entering said tub ...

6. A method of controlling the temperature of liquid in a liquid treatment machine comprising: selecting a desired final temperature of a liquid in a liquid container in the machine, ...

7. A control system for admitting precise amounts of two separate temperature distinct liquid streams into a container....

These claims are thus directed to

- a washing machine including a control system,
- a liquid treatment machine comprising a container inside the machine,
- and to said container per se.

They nowhere teach or fairly suggest having the container or its corresponding parts not included in the machine.

The Figures have to be interpreted in accordance with the claims. Figure 1 is the only Figure depicting the whole washing machine. The claims directed to the complete washing machines are claims 1-5. These claims clearly state that the temperature control system is included in the washing machine and therefore Figure 1 does not disclose an apparatus not being part of the washing machine.

Hence, Applicant's invention clearly distinguishes from Getz by claiming an external apparatus for washing machines which supplies the water feed of the washing machine with pre-warmed liquid and therefore is not part of the washing machine.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1,2,7,8,9,13, and 14 under 35 USC § 102 over Getz is respectfully requested.

It would, moreover, also not be obvious for a person having ordinary skills in the art to use the mechanism by part described in Getz to be used for an external adapter for washing machines since at first an external adapter not being part of the washing machine only brings disadvantages and complications in terms of temperature control and flow control. Existing literature teaches away from such a solution because it is obvious to use as much information available within the washing machine as possible to optimize temperature-control, flow-control, valve cycling etc. with regard to the washing mode. By doing without this information and integration possibilities within the washing machine applicant's invention buys the advantage of having an apparatus being independent of the washing machine which is of no interest in the design of washing machines a priori, but offers a means to retrofit existing washing machines lacking such features completely. How to overcome this limitations, of independent adapters to some extent again, is part of the current invention.

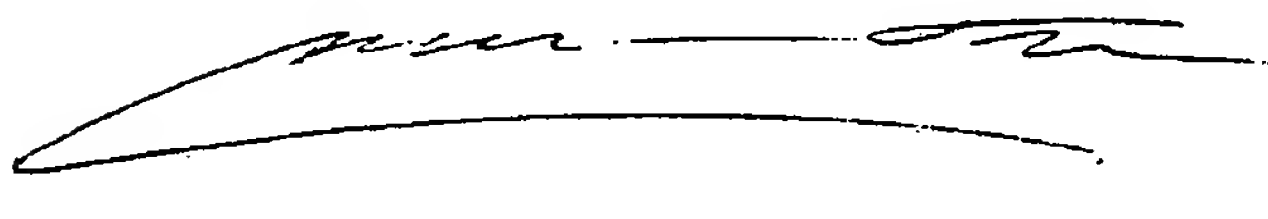
To Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103:

The withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and 2 would render the rejection of claim 3 moot.

Conclusions

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of claim rejects under 35 USC § 102 over Getz and respectfully asks for issuance of a non-final Office action explaining also the pertinence of DeLangis to be able to amend the claims accordingly.

Respectfully submitted:



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